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RADIO SERVICE

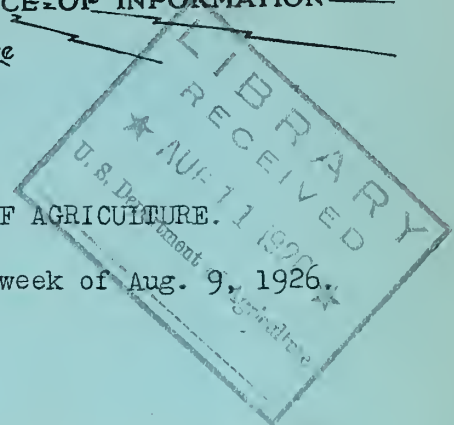
Farm News Digest

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

United States Department of Agriculture

PREPARED AND SYNDICATED BY THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Release week of Aug. 9, 1926.



Agriculture Needs College-Trained Farm Boys and Girls, says Jardine

More farm boys and girls in college. This is an integral part of any sound program for the permanent betterment of agriculture, says W. M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture. "Agriculture grows more complex every year," said Secretary Jardine. "It needs trained men and women to meet its problems. The same thing is true of every other field of work. America is calling constantly for leadership in every line--and leadership comes mainly from the ranks of college men and women. "The enrollment in agricultural courses diminished 26 per cent in 1914-15 to 1925-26. First there was the war, which drew a vast number of young men into the army and into essential industries. Then the period of post-war prosperity made many hesitate to leave money-making jobs. The agricultural depression shortly thereafter produced a general tendency away from preparation for farming. Agricultural enrollments in colleges have begun to come back. There were a few more freshmen last year than the year before. Now is the time, in my estimation, to study agriculture. There are opportunities for trained young men.

Crop Prospects Favorable.

This year may prove to be another season of improvement in agricultural conditions, says the department's July report on the farm situation. The stage is set for strong hog prices well into next year, prospects for wheat growers are moderately good, cattle are "coming back" in the West, and the dairy industry is picking up in the East. Conditions of a crop season ordinarily are fairly well defined by this time of year, but the weather this season has been so backward and varied that cotton, corn, potatoes, and even wheat, are largely a speculation at this date. The carlot movement of early vegetables, however, has been fully as heavy as last year, due partly to the early season in the Far West. Abundant Fruit crops are in prospect. Hay is apparently a short crop, except in the Far West, and stocks of old hay are low also.

Radio Rendering Great Service to Farmers.

The farm radio, per dollar of investment, is bringing the farmers of the country more dollars and cents return, and is doing more to bring about a better contented and a more understanding class of farmers than any other single scientific contribution of the age. This is the opinion expressed by Sam Pickard, Chief of the Radio Service of the Department of Agriculture, in a talk before the editors of the land-grant colleges during their recent meeting in Michigan. At the time he made the talk at East Lansing he was in the midst of a long official automobile tour over a large part of the country, talking to thousands of farmers to get human impressions as well as cold data, finding out from them what they think of radio, the value it has been to them, especially in the conduct of their farm business and homes, and their ideas as to how radio broadcasting and broadcast material might be made to dovetail better into the farm hours and be of still greater service to them and their families. Mr. Pickard said he found that both college and commercial broadcasters are making an intelligent effort to anticipate the farmer's problems with interesting, helpful programs, and are winning large and faithful audiences of the most enterprising class of farmers. He cited concrete examples of how practical application of information received over the radio is helping farmers' bank balances. In districts 60 miles from a railroad he discovered farmers who had changed their farming to more profitable lines as a result of hearing authoritative talks over the radio. "The farm fan," he said, "has two chief criticisms of radio. The one most often voiced is the curse of not getting enough sleep. Most of them admit they sit up with their sets late into the night. Many others say that while they like to be neighborly they tire of the entire community dropping in every winter evening and then forgetting to go home." He asked the colleges to dramatize their informational programs and inject greater interest and more humor into them.

Progress of Livestock Improvement Shown in New Report.

The growing popularity of purebred sires for the improvement of livestock in the United States is evident from the report of progress of the "Better Sires Better Stock" campaign. Two outstanding accomplishments received special mention. One is the official announcement that Union County, Kentucky, was the first in the United States to reach a 100 per cent purebred-bull goal. A personal investigation of the livestock-breeding situation in that county, made by a department representative, confirmed earlier reports. The second accomplishment is a recordbreaking advance by stock owners in New Haven County, Connecticut, in the use of purebred sires for all classes of livestock kept. That county has a total of 747 persons enrolled for livestock improvement, making it the premier county in the United States in that respect.

Hot Weather Suggestions for Safely Shipping Hogs

Members of cooperative livestock shipping associations when marketing hogs can profit by observing all of the "hot-weather hints" listed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as necessary for best results. The list includes the following suggestions: 1. Haul or drive your hogs into shipping station in ample time to allow them to become rested and cool before loading. 2. Insist upon a clean car bedded with sand. 3. Wet down the bedding and interior of the car before loading. 4. Give only a light feeding before shipping. Heavy feed means more body heat generated. 5. Load not more than one hour before the train is to depart. 6. Load slowly and carefully. Avoid excitement, and do not beat or bruise the animals. 7. Load not to exceed 16,000 pounds in a standard 36-foot car during warm weather. 8. Have the cars drenched at every available point immediately after the train stops. 9. Use Ice bags suspended from the car roof whenever possible. Six bags to a car will suffice.

Remedies for Red Clover.

The increased difficulty in getting a stand of red clover, experienced in late years by growers in many sections of the country, is largely due to improper soil conditions, disease, nonadapted seed, wrong methods of seeding, or to the use of harmful nurse crops, says the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Improper soil conditions result from constant cultivation and the consequent loss of lime, phosphates, potash, and organic matter, making the soil unsuited to the growth of clover. Such conditions can be remedied by applying the elements lacking and by working in manure and other forms of organic matter. When clover failure is caused by disease, a disease-resistant variety should be used if available, or some other legume substituted for red clover. If red clover fails on land well supplied with lime, sweet clover can often be used instead.



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Guilty Gullies

Gullies cause loss of valuable soil. They may be reclaimed and filled in by building soil-saving dams across them.

Sanitation Saves Pigs

More than 600 Illinois farmers using the swine sanitation system advised by the Department of Agriculture saved from 1 to 3 pigs per litter more than under old methods.

Old But Good

In Germany the use of legume crops as green manure began in the middle of the nineteenth century and has proved an important factor in reclaiming the sandy lands of parts of Prussia.

Cheap Eggs From Pullets

General-purpose pullets, such as Plymouth Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, or Wyandottes, produced a dozen eggs from 6.8 pounds of feed, and Leghorn pullets from 5.2 pounds of feed. Old hens required a much larger amount of feed than pullets in producing a dozen eggs experiments of the U. S. Department of Agriculture show.

Those Lousy Hogs

Hog lice, which are generally prevalent wherever hogs are raised, cause considerable loss to the swine industry. This loss takes the form of increased quantity of feed consumed per pound of gain, arrested growth of young pigs, and shrinkage of weight of fattening hogs. Only one species of lice commonly affects hogs, and this parasite obtains its food by puncturing the skin of the animal and sucking its blood. The lice can be eradicated by hand applications, spraying, and dipping. Dipping is the best method of applying treatment. Crude-petroleum and coal-tar-creosote dips are effective remedies.

Horse Feed Hints

Oats are one of the best grains for horses. Compared with corn, oats have more protein and less carbohydrates. They may be fed either whole or ground. For very young animals they should be rolled or ground. In the case of horses that eat too rapidly, it is advisable to place a little chopped clover hay or some whole corncobs in the feed box with the oats to prevent the danger of choking.

Upset Old Theory of Milk Secretion Process

A novel experiment to determine whether the milk in a cow's udder is manufactured during the few minutes required for the milking process, as is generally taught, or whether it is secreted continuously and collected in the udder previous to milking, was conducted recently by the United States Department of Agriculture. In these tests it was found that a cow's udder is capable of holding from 11 to 20 quarts of milk instead of only a quart, as is quite commonly taught. For the tests, two cows were killed, their udders immediately removed and mounted on a framework in a position for milking. One of the cows had normally been giving about 12 pounds at a milking. A total of 10.27 pounds of milk was drawn from her udder after all body connections had been severed.

Bright Future for Agriculture in South America

"We may expect that in the future much of the marvelous development that has taken place in the United States during the last half century will be duplicated to a considerable extent in the temperate regions of South America," states Leon M. Estabrook, formerly agricultural commissioner for the Department of Agriculture, in summing up the results of nearly two years' study of South American agriculture. Argentina, Mr. Estabrook says, has a cereal region as fertile and as large as the Corn Belt of the United States, but only about 16.2 per cent of it is in cultivation. Except for limited areas that are too wet, the whole region is ideal for crop production and can be brought under cultivation merely by breaking the sod. The wet areas can easily be drained.

Horse Mange Controlled by Dipping With Lime-Sulphur Solution

Mange, one of the most injurious skin diseases affecting horses, may be cured by dipping the animals in a lime-sulphur dip or in a nicotine solution. None of the dips for treating horses can be depended upon to kill all the lice at one dipping, however. The "nits" or eggs which survive the first dipping should be destroyed by a second dipping as soon as hatching is completed and before the young lice become mature and begin depositing eggs.



★ AUG 23 1926 ★

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Melon Aphid Effectively Controlled by Nicotine

The melon aphid, which attacks watermelons, muskmelons, cucumbers and like crops, is effectively controlled by the application of nicotine either as a spray or dust, says the United States Department of Agriculture. This insect, frequently called the melon louse, is very small, varies in color from light green to dark green, and the wingless forms are louselike in appearance.

European Corn Borer Quarantine Amended to Include New Counties in Ohio

Several counties and townships in Ohio have been added to the territory now under quarantine on account of the European corn borer. Early scouting indicates that there has been considerable spread of the pest in the western part of Ohio, the infestation reaching the Indiana line. Inasmuch as the roads leading out of this area enter Indiana where no infestation is known to occur, and since many of the automobiles leaving this area go as far as Illinois and even to Iowa, it was considered necessary to amend the regulations to include this additional territory, with the object of retarding all spread by commercial and other vehicles.

Slight Improvement in Agricultural Income

Income from farm production the past season, 1925-26, again showed a moderate improvement, but farmers as a class are still at a financial disadvantage to industrial workers, according to an analysis of receipts and expenditures just completed by the United States Department of Agriculture. Factory wage earners, on the other hand, the department points out, for the past three years have earned approximately the same money income as they did in 1919-20 and have been able to buy with those earnings about 16 per cent more than they could in 1919-20, while the farmer with his income has been able to buy about 20 per cent less.

Brown Root Rot of Tobacco Affected by Crop Rotations

Extensive experiments by the United States Department of Agriculture have failed to produce definite conclusions as to the cause and control of brown root rot, a disease affecting tobacco and other crops, particularly tomatoes, potatoes, and certain legumes. The occurrence of the disease, however, is closely correlated with the preceding crops grown on the land.

Cooperatives Enroll 2,000,000 in Decade

Farmers' business organizations in the United States had about 2,500,000 members in December, 1925, compared with about 500,000 members in 1915. Some farmers belong to several associations. From a percentage standpoint the largest increases in the 10-year period were made in the Southern States from Virginia to Texas. From a numerical standpoint, however, the largest increase occurred in the West North Central States, and the smallest in the Mountain States.

Hog Prospects Good

The recent pig survey, shows one-half per cent fewer pigs saved in the Corn Belt this spring than last. This means no increase in supply of hogs for slaughter before next spring, and presumably well-sustained prices for a year yet to come. The number of sows bred or to be bred for next fall farrowing, however, is reported as 36 per cent larger than the number farrowing last fall. This strongly suggests marked reversal of the hog supply and the price situation about the winter of 1927. With the stage set for strong hog prices well into next year, with prospects for wheat growers moderately good, with cattle coming back in the West, and the dairy industry picking up in the East, it appears that this may well prove to be another season of improvement in agricultural conditions.

Bigger Teams Being Used

Teams of 12 to 20 horses are coming rapidly into use for plowing, seeding, and harvesting in Montana and other dry-farming areas where land is plentiful, thus increasing the production per man. Equalized hitches and simple harness have facilitated the handling of large teams. This fact, coupled with the absolute necessity of holding labor costs down in an area where wages are high and average crop yields per acre low, has prompted thousands of farmers to double up their power resources by using bigger teams.

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SEP 1 1926
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FARM NEWS DIGEST **

SECRETARY JARDINE REPORTS AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

GENERALLY GOOD.

"Except in a few sections, the agricultural situation generally is good throughout the country," Secretary Jardine reported to President Coolidge August 21, states a press dispatch from White Pine Camp. The Secretary is now on a tour of the Eastern agricultural centers.

Secretary Jardine expressed the belief that corn will sell from 10 to 20 cents more a bushel than a year ago and he looks for the new corn to start on the market at a price of about 75 cents a bushel. While he thinks farmers will have fully as good crops this year as they had last year -- the best year for farmers since the war,-- Secretary Jardine made it plain that some farmers are not fully satisfied. In the Secretary's own judgment, the average farmer wants a readjustment of the tariff so he will receive as great benefit from this form of protection as does the industrial East; better credit facilities, especially for the cooperative marketing societies; better distribution, and a reduction of taxes, especially the state and local taxes. One of the greatest problems facing the country today, so far as the farmer is concerned, Secretary Jardine believes to be finding some practical means of relieving the banks of the West of the loans they are carrying on farms.

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----- EVENING STAR NEEDS LITTLE RAIN -----

A plant two feet in height with a gorgeous blossom, known as the Evening Star, which grows on the tops of scoria buttes with less than two inches of rainfall during the Summer, has been received for identification by the North Dakota Agricultural College. The plant is reported to belong to a family closely related to the cactus. The flowers are of a light-cream color and are two or three inches across. They open at sun-down. Evening Star is not known to have any practical value.

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----- PROMISING PROSPECTS FOR BEEF CATTLE, REPORT -----

SHOWS

Good news for the stock raiser. Higher prices for beef cattle are in prospect within the next eighteen months for both the feeders and range producers, according to the report on the outlook for beef cattle recently made by the Department of Agriculture. An upward trend is probable over the next two or three years. The numbers of breeding stock of cattle on feed, and of young stock seem to be materially lower than for several years so that reduction in the market movement is expected.

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----- POPULAR HAY-CURE THEORY DISPROVED -----

Most farmers believe that hay cures more rapidly when the leaves are left on the stems, due to the theory that the leaves act as pumps to draw the moisture from the stems. This theory is not well founded, says the Department of Agriculture. Extensive tests with alfalfa hay to determine

whether or not any appreciable amount of water passes off through the leaves after the hay is harvested showed that stems from which the leaves had been picked lost their moisture even more readily than when allowed to cure in the natural state; that is, with the leaves attached. Experts still believe that curing the hay in the windrow or cock is good practice because of the saving of the leaves and because hay cured in this way has a better color.

* * *

WATER APPLES LIBERALLY TO CURE WATER CORE

Fruit growers who have found their apples affected with water core, a serious disease of apples, will be glad to hear that Dr. Charles Brooks, pathologist of the United States Department of Agriculture, recommends liberal irrigation and picking the apples at maturity as methods of reducing the disease. After six years of investigation the Department found that, contrary to the prevailing belief, the disease occurs when the supply of water in the soil is inadequate rather than when it is excessive. The real cause of the trouble, however, is in connection with high temperatures, intense sunlight, and the accompanying high-sap concentration in the fruit. If the apples are picked at the proper stage of maturity, the trouble should be largely prevented -- if accompanied by liberal irrigation.

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RANCHMEN HAMPERED BY HIGH LAND VALUES

Ranchers using high-priced land are handicapped and can succeed only by producing more and better beef at a lower cost, a study made by the Department shows. High investments in land are pointed out as one of the most serious problems the ranch cattleman has to face. Range-cattle production costs in Colorado in 1923 indicated that the average investment per ranch among 41 ranches was \$132,409. Only 31 per cent

of this amount was invested in cattle. Some of the ranchers had as much as 75 per cent of their total investment tied up in high-priced land. Men operating cheap land, a good share of it on lease, were shown to have a great advantage over ranchers operating owned land. A few ranchmen were found to be paying more interest on land per cow than the entire net cost of running a cow on other ranches. As a matter of fact, says the Department, it has been cheaper to lease than to own grazing land in Colorado in recent years.

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